



## FACT SHEET of Changes To SAFER Grant Program

### What is SAFER?

The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program was created to provide funding to fire departments to hire additional fire fighters to help ensure compliance with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

### What Has Changed?

The rules governing the use of SAFER funds have changed. The IAFF wrote and lobbied to also make SAFER grants available to rehire fire fighters who have been laid off and bring back positions that are not being filled as a result of the current financial crisis. In addition, SAFER grants apply to municipalities that issued layoff notices before October 31, 2009, and have not yet taken effect. Grants will be expedited in order to deliver funds as soon as possible.

For a position to be eligible for funding under the rehiring initiative, it must have been the object of a layoff action that was effected between January 1, 2008 and October 31, 2009. The new rules will NOT require your jurisdiction to match any of the federal funds or to provide maintenance funding for the positions.

DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano delayed the 2009 application process to ensure that the \$210 million that Congress appropriated for SAFER for Fiscal Year 2009 and the \$420 million appropriated for Fiscal Year 2010 are available under the new guidelines.

### Who Can Apply?

Management must file for the grants, but the IAFF is available to assist your community in applying for the grants.

The FY 2009 SAFER award conditions do not apply to previous SAFER grants, nor will they remain in effect beyond 2010.

### When Can You Apply?

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will begin accepting applications for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants beginning November 16, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time. The application period will close December 18, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Applications for \$210 million in SAFER funding will be available through the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE Act) web site at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com), along with program guidance. A second application period will open in early 2010 for the \$420 million appropriated for Fiscal Year 2010.

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